

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

27 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 5

FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03043-0005

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2016

Selectmen Present: Chair Brad Howell, Scott S Carbee and Abigail Arnold.

Staff Present: Town Administrator Jamie A. Pike

Others Present: Susan Downs-Cripps, Lisa Bourbeau, Bissy Tolman, Michael J Tartalis, Pamela Finnell, Stewart Brock, James Gann, BJ Carbee, John & Pat Thalhouser, Dennis Orsi, Warren Kiblin, Kerry & Henry Camirand, Polly Freese, Paul & Karen St Cyr, Lawrence Kullgren, Elizabeth Hunter LaVallee, Deborah Rogers, Henry Kunhardt, Carol Brock, Sue Jonas and others.

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Mr. Pike brought forward a request from Tax Collector Pamela Finnell to not publish the names and amounts of unpaid taxes and liens in the Town Report. Many towns have discontinued the practice. The Town has received advice from Town Counsel, the Tax Collectors' Association and the Department of Revenue that the publishing of such information, while legal, opens the Town to liability. Pam further expressed that she feels it shames those persons who are not financially able to pay their taxes. Ms. Arnold stated that she feels the publication of the names encourages persons to pay their taxes but had no objection to not publishing the names. Mr. Howell and Mr. Carbee agreed. A motion was made by Mr. Carbee and seconded by Mr. Howell to not publish the names and amounts of the uncollected taxes and liens in the Town Report. **Motion passes.**

Mr. Howell brought forward two amendments to the proposed Transfer Station Ordinance. The amendments were to specifically note the relevant RSA's with respect to the enforcement of the fines and a sentence restructuring of Section 3, Paragraph 5 with no substantive change. A motion was made by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Carbee to approve the amendments as submitted. **Motion passes.**

The Board discussed the Cressy Hill Road warrant article. An amendment was submitted to modify to the article to read "To see if the Town will vote to classify Cressy Hill Road as a Class V, Town maintained highway, in accordance with RSA 231:22-a, beginning at its intersection with Russell Station Road, and terminating at a point approximately sixty (60) feet south of the bridge over Rand Brook." A motion was made by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Carbee to

approve the amendment and advance the article to number 9 within the warrant. **Motion passes.**

The Board reviewed the Board of Selectmen's Report drafted by Ms. Arnold for submission to the Town report. Mr. Carbee requested that the two sentences regarding the Taylor property on 2nd NH Turnpike South. The Board agreed to remove the two sentences.

Being no further business, Chairman Howell recessed the meeting at 6:20pm.

Chairman Howell reconvened the meeting at 7pm and opened the Public Hearing upon the 2016 Budget and Warrant.

Selectmen Present: Brad Howell and Scott Carbee

Town Administrator Jamie A. Pike presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the major changes in the budget and each warrant article.

Article 6 – Operating Budget

The recommended Operating Budget to the Town is \$1,685,218. This represents an increase of \$66,018 or 4.08%. The primary initiative of the budget building process was to maintain the current level of services provided by each department.

Major decreases in the budget include:

- Town Admin Salary (-\$5,000), this is to reflect the current contract for the Town Administrator position
- Utility Value Defense (-\$8,500), anticipated expenses have been reduced as the major work has been completed with respect to the existing lawsuits
- Highways and Streets – Overtime and Road Salt (-\$7,000) this represents the additions at the 2015 Town Meeting to cover unexpected winter storm expenses.
- Highways and Streets – Fuel (-\$6,500) this represents the experienced decrease in fuel pricing while maintaining the average gallon usage
- Welfare – Direct Assistance (-\$6,800) this is based on anticipated case load for 2016 service year. 2015 expenses were \$14,800 below budget.

Major Increases in the budget include:

- Elections – (+\$6,300) this number is dependent on the year and 2016 is a 5 election cycle year.
- Police Dept – Officer Wages (+\$25,800) reflects wage increases for officers that were made in 2015 This budget also allows for 91+ hours of weekly police coverage. *Mr. Gann asked how the department plans to staff the anticipated coverage. Mr. Pike explained that the current plan is to hire a full time officer during the month of April.*
- Ambulance Service (+\$13,300) related to a rate formula change initiated by the Peterborough Ambulance Service. It was explained that the Town and the Fire

Department are looking at future proposals that would help to reduce the reliance on the Peterborough Ambulance.

- Fire Department – Payroll (+\$3,800) representing an increase in stipend for the Fire Chief as the position continues to require more time and administration to meet the demands of the department.
- Fire Department – Prof. Dev. (+\$1,500) the cost of EMT training has doubled over the past few years. As the department works towards assuming more ambulance duties, well trained volunteers are needed.
- Building Inspection (+\$2,000) an increase in hours and training for the new building inspector.
- Solid Waste Disp (+\$16,300) directly related to the new disposal contract. The Town was able to see considerable savings over the past three years, but due to recycling market conditions, and necessary operational changes, a new contract was necessary.
- Parks and Rec (+\$1,500) due to landscape service contract increases to include the in-field maintenance that was previously completed by volunteers.
- Library (\$1,100) this is directly related to rising utility costs for electricity and telephone services.
- Debt Service (+\$20,400) this represents the anticipation of payments for the Town Hall note and related counsel fees.

Article 7 seeks to amend the title and purpose of the Future Town Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund to allow use of the funds for other town facilities that may not be directly related to a building.

Article 8 seeks to appropriate \$597,500 to be deposited into various capital reserve funds as recommended by the Capital Improvement Plan. *Mr. Gann requested to know the current balance of each reserve fund as well as a history of the fund balances. Mr. Pike provided the audience with the current balance of each fund and furthered that the year end balances are available in the Town Report.*

Article 9 seeks to appropriate from fund balance \$2,000 to be added to the Master Plan Update fund.

Article 10 seeks to appropriate \$1.7M for the replacement of bridges. This appropriation will not lapse until 2021 and is 80% funded by the State and 20% to be withdrawn for the Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 11 seeks to authorize the Selectmen to acquire Map 3 Lot 26 to be used as either open space or as a future cemetery. *Members of the audience began to debate the merits of this article. Chairman Howell reminded the members of the public that this meeting is for informational purposes and that any debate on the merits shall be reserved for Town meeting.*

Article 12 seeks to appropriate \$210,000 to purchase a replacement rescue truck for the Fire Department. Chief Kullgren requested that the article be amended to \$212,500. The Board approved the article as amended.

Article 13 seeks to appropriate \$180,000 to purchase a new payload for the highway department.

Article 14 seeks to appropriate \$125,000 to complete the reconstruction of Pleasant Pond Road to the Deering Town line.

Article 15 seeks to appropriate \$1,800 for the purpose of entering a contract for the video recording and broadcast of board and committee meetings.

Article 16 seeks to appropriate \$91,000 to complete various facility projects to include:

- A new solar wall at the Fire Station
- Geo-thermal efficiency improvements at the Library
- Police Station building needs
- For the restoration and repair of Library Windows
- For Transfer Station facility needs

Article 17 seeks to appropriate \$21,755 for milfoil treatment at Scoby Pond. This is partially funded by the State in the amount of \$8,702.

Article 18 seeks to appropriate \$3,000 for milfoil prevention efforts at Pleasant Pond.

Article 19 seeks to adopt an ordinance governing the use of the Transfer Station and requiring mandatory recycling.

Article 20 (moved to #9 earlier in the meeting) seeks to classify a portion of Cressy Hill Road as a Class V Town maintained highway. *Members of the audience began to debate the merits of this article. Chairman Howell reminded the members of the public that this meeting is for informational purposes and that any debate on the merits shall be reserved for Town meeting.*

Article 21 was submitted by petition and seeks to establish a property tax exemption for solar collection systems.

Mr. Pike reviewed quickly the Town officers which are to be elected on Tuesday March 8th.

Mr. Larry Ames briefly reviewed the 4 proposed zoning amendments.

NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: Tuesday, February 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie A Pike

Not approved until signed.

Brad Howell

Scott S Carbee

Abigail Arnold